

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 09508 011537Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03
SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 PA-01 /059 W
-----033533 011648Z /50

P R 011439Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO USICA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9821
AMCONSUL KADUNA
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 9508

USICA

ICA FOR AF AND ECA, DEPT FOR AF/W PASS AMB EASUM,
FRANKFURT FOR JOSEPH EDER, DIR, EUROPEAN BRANCH, USGAO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: N/A
SUBJ: FMG POSITION ON GRANTS TO AND COMMUNICATION WITH
NIGERIANS: AN INTERIM REPORT

REF: LAGOS 7739

1. REFTEL DESCRIBED FMG POLICY REGARDING ECA GRANTS AND
COMMUNICATIONS WITH NIGERIANS CONTAINED IN DIP NOTE TO
EMBASSY.

2. IN A SERIES OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR
FABUNMI, HE INDICATED A DESIRE TO FIND SOME MODUS VIVENDI,
TO ALLOW POST TO COMPLETE OUTSTANDING EXCHANGE GRANTS FOR
REMAINDER OF FISCAL YEAR. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE REQUESTED
A LETTER WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A CLEAR STATEMENT OF THE
PRINCIPLES WHICH UNDERLIE OUR EXCHANGES PROGRAM. HE IN-
DICATED THAT THIS INFORMATION WOULD ALLOW HIM TO MAKE A
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 09508 011537Z

MORE REASONED INFORMAL APPROACH TO HIS SUPERIORS AND
WOULD POSSIBLY PROVIDE A BASIS FOR US TO COMPLETE OUR
EXCHANGES PROGRAM FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS FISCAL YEAR.
SUCH A LETTER WAS PROVIDED ON JULY 14.

3. ON JULY 31, PAO DISCUSSED THE SITUATION WITH FABUNMI
WHO SAID THAT HE HAD UTILIZED OUR JULY 14 LETTER TO PRO-

VIDE AN IN-HOUSE RATIONALE FOR OUR COMPLETION OF THE YEAR'S PROGRAM. HE SAID THAT HIS RECOMMENDATIONS HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE PERMSEC; HOWEVER, HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE ORIGINAL PROHIBITION HAD COME FROM THE "HIGHEST QUARTERS OUTSIDE THIS BUILDING" AND THEREFORE, A DECISION TO ALLOW US TO COMPLETE THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM WOULD HAVE TO BE SOUGHT FROM THOSE QUARTERS. CONSEQUENTLY, HE IS PREPARING ANOTHER RECOMMENDATION TO "HIGHER QUARTERS" THAT WOULD ALLOW US TO COMPLETE THE YEAR'S PROGRAM. HE BELIEVES THAT IF WE CAN SECURE SUCH AN APPROVAL FOR THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM, THEN IT WILL BE MUCH EASIER TO DEVISE A MODUS OPERANDI FOR THE SUCCEEDING YEARS' PROGRAMS.

4. FABUNMI, WE BELIEVE, ONCE SEIZED OF THE PROBLEMS OF ADMINISTERING A PROGRAM OF SUCH MAGNITUDE, HAS BACKED OFF AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO ALLOW US TO CONSULT WITH HIS DEPARTMENT AS WE DEVELOP OUR EXCHANGE PROGRAM DURING THE YEAR. WE WOULD HAVE FEW PROBLEMS COOPERATING IN THIS MANNER AND COULD POSSIBLY EVEN SEE SOME VALUE IN ADOPTING SUCH A PROCEDURE. FOR EXAMPLE, IT COULD EXPAND OUR CONTACTS AS WELL AS BRING OUR PROGRAMS TO THE ATTENTION OF A WIDER CIRCLE OF POTENTIAL CLIENTS.

5. PAO EXPECTS TO DISCUSS OUR DIFFICULTIES WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTENT OF THE NOTE INFORMALLY
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PAGE 03 LAGOS 09508 011537Z

WITH MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OFFICE AS WELL AS AIDES TO THE HEAD OF STATE. IN THIS MANNER WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO DETERMINE FROM WHAT QUARTER EXACTLY SUCH INSTRUCTIONS WERE ISSUED. ONCE THIS IS DETERMINED, WE WILL HAVE A CLEARER APPRECIATION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF AMELIORATING THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE NOTE.

6. GIVEN THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS AND THE FACT THAT WE HAVE CONTINUED TO BE ABLE TO SEND GRANTEES ON SCHEDULE, WE DO NOT FEEL ANY FORMAL ACTION IS PRESENTLY NECESSARY. IF ONLY BY DEFAULT, WE BELIEVE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO SEND GRANTEES SINCE MUCH OF THE PROCEDURAL WORK AND CONTACT WAS DONE PRIOR TO THE RECEIPT OF THE NOTE. IN MOST CASES, WE ONLY HAVE TO ISSUE TICKETS AND ASSIST IN THE ISSUANCE OF VISAS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ACT WITH CIRCUMSPECTION AND WILL CONTINUE THE INFORMAL DIALOGUE WITH FABUNMI. WE HOPE THAT OUR INFORMAL ACTIONS WILL LEAD TO AN ACCEPTABLE AND EQUITABLE CONCLUSION OF THE PROBLEM.

7. FOR KADUNA: PER KADUNA 977, PARA 2, SINCE NEXT FY PROGRAM

NOT YET SORTED OUT, YOU SHOULD MAKE NO FORMAL
APPROACHES TO POTENTIAL GRANTEES AND NOMINATING
CABLES ARE NOT CALLED FOR.
YOU MAY, OF COURSE, AS APPROPRIATE BEGIN CONSIDERATION
OF POTENTIAL CANDIDATES.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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